THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report has generally covered cases of violence against political workers, other persons including women, booth capturing and unlawful acts of rigging the election at places, deficiencies in deployment of security forces, inadequate response from the Administration and cases of subversion of political process.

(c) All these cases need to be fully investigated by the appropriate agencies of the Government. The Government of Tripura have set up a one man Commission of Inquiry headed by a retired Judge of the Guwahati High Court. The matter has been taken up with the State Government to take effective remedial action, investigate the cases and bring the culprits to book. The State Government has been asked to set up a special cell to monitor the progress of these cases.

Union Territory Status for Ladakh

3379. SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand for Union Territory status for Ladakh; if so Government's response thereto; and

(b) whether in the last two years there have been talks between the Ladakhi delegates/deputationists and Government on this issue if so, what was the outcome thereof each time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) A section of the people of Ladakh have been demanding Union Territory status for Ladakh.

(b) The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has intimated that the demand for Union Territory status was withdrawn by the Ladakh Budhist Association in October, 1989, when an accord was signed at Leh between the representatives of Ladakh Budhist Association and State Goevrnment. A meeting regarding their demand was further held at Jammu in January 1990, in which Ladakh Budhist Association demanded a District Hill Council for Leh.

The issue is still under examination of the State Government.

Involvement of Iran and Saudi Arabia in Kashmir Terrorism

3380. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the involvement of Iran and Saudi Arabia for providing arms and financial assistance to Kashmiri militants to carry their terrorist activties;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to dissuade the two countries from interfering in the internal affairs of India; and

(c) the details of the stand taken by these two countries on the present Kashmir problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) and (b) Both Iran and Saudi Arabia have denied that they are involved in providing arms and financial assistance to the terrorists in Kashmir.

(c) Some statements that have emanated from these countries reflect an incorrect appreciation of developments in Jammu and Kashmir.